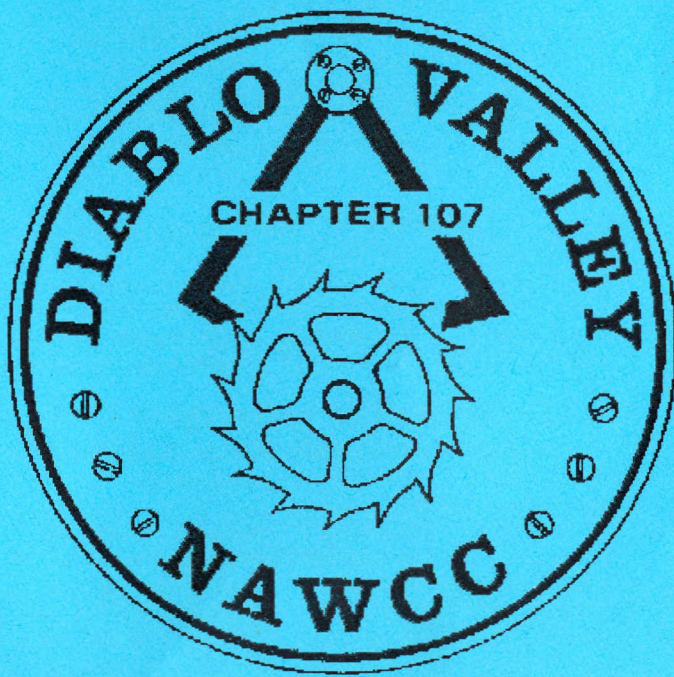


# BULLETIN



**October 2014**  
**Volume 215**

## DIABLO VALLEY

### Chapter 107

National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors

<http://community.nawcc.org/chapter107>

email account [chapter107nawcc@gmail.com](mailto:chapter107nawcc@gmail.com)

Chapter Established March 5, 1978

### "Accent on Education"

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Past Pres.	Price Russ	925-937-9231	gpruss@pacbell.net

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Web Master	Price Russ	925-937-9231	gpruss@pacbell.net

### One important change

**Mart hours will be from 10:30  
with the formal meeting and program  
starting at noon.**

## Meeting Notice

October 12, 2014

### Note new Mart and Meeting times

**Grange Hall has a Sunday morning meeting scheduled every week. We need to adjust our meeting time.**

**Mart set up will open at 10:30 please do not come earlier the Meeting will start at 12:00.**

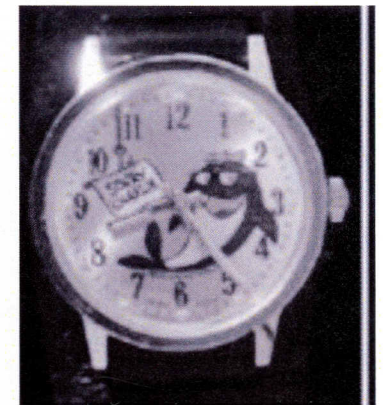
**Grange Hall 743 Diablo Road  
Danville**

### This month's Topic and Speaker

"Collecting Character Watches: The Fun Is In The Pursuit"  
By Julia Mueller from Tacoma WA

If you have a minute before the meeting go to the NAWCC web site and look up her June 2002 article.

There will be a reception for Julia with light refreshments immediately following the meeting.



### *President's Message*

The location and weather for our August picnic and white elephant sale was absolutely perfect. I want to thank all in attendance for bringing fabulous side dishes (my favorite being **Ron Bechler** baked beans), and for bringing and buying items at the white elephant sale. The chapter made \$534 on the sale and many folks went home with some nice bargains. A special thanks to **Price and Bernice Russ** for hosting the picnic. **Walt Hubrig** did a fantastic job as pit master and head chef with **Chip Kumparak** turning out great Corn on the Cob. **Nile Godfrey** supplied tables, chairs, and tent and organized a very successful auction. Once again thank you all for making a very special Sunday picnic.

### **Mark Your Calendars Silver Dollar Regional J A Nugget Hotel Casino Resort, Sparks, NV August 29-30, 2015**

The last Regional's for the Northern California area were the Silver Dollar Regionals in 2010 and 2006. The last Golden Gate Regional was in 2005. That is about to change. We have a signed agreement with the Nugget as a location and approval from the National for a Silver Dollar Regional to be held August 29 and 30, 2015. The hosting Chapters are #65 Sierra Nevada, #107 Diablo Valley and #5 San Francisco. The Regional Chairman is **Vince Angell** and I will serve as Co Chairman. The Mart room is about 25,000 sq ft which gives us space for a nice number of tables. Plans are being made for several speakers to give programs. We will have a Breakfast Banquet with a representative from the National giving a report on the association, as well as a nice display area for Horological items. Some of my fondest memories come from attending Regional and National meetings. Plan to attend, you will not be disappointed. More information will be forth coming.

John

### Ken Clark Silent Auction Estate Sale

Former chapter 107 member, Ken Clark passed away several months ago. His wife Nancy will be bringing a number of Horological treasures to our October meeting. The Auction will be held during the Mart portion of the meeting. Nancy will be bringing about 50 clocks, parts, and perhaps some books.



## Part 1: Ancient Calendars Aztec, Egyptian, and Sumerian Calendars



Celestial bodies, the sun, moon, planets, and stars have provided us a reference for measuring the passage of time throughout our existence. Ancient civilizations relied upon the apparent motion of these bodies through the sky to determine seasons, months, and years. Little is known about the details of timekeeping in prehistoric eras, however, records and artifacts that are discovered, show that in every culture, people were preoccupied with measuring and recording the passage of time. Ice-age hunters in Europe over 20,000 years ago scratched lines and gouged holes in sticks and bones, possibly counting the days between phases of the moon. Five thousand years ago, Sumerians in the Tigris-Euphrates valley in today's Iraq had a calendar that divided the year into 30-day months, divided the day into 12 periods (each corresponding to 2 of our hours), and divided these periods into 30 parts (each like 4 of our minutes). There are no written records of the creating of Stonehenge, built over 4000 years ago in England, but its alignments show its purposes apparently included the determination of seasonal or celestial events, such as lunar eclipses, solstices and so on. The earliest Egyptian calendar was based on the moon's cycles, but later the Egyptians realized that the "Dog Star" in Canis Major, which is now called Sirius, rose next to the sun every 365 days, about when the annual inundation of the Nile began. Based on this knowledge, they devised a 365-day calendar that seems to have begun in 4236 B.C., the earliest recorded year in history.

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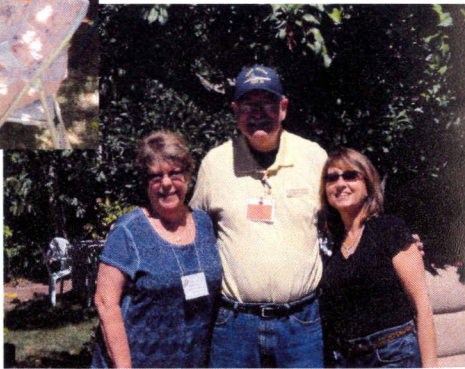
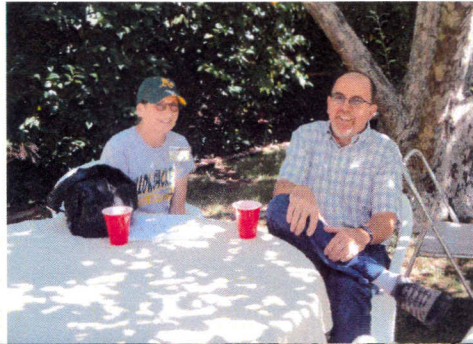
In Babylonia, again in Iraq, a year of 12 alternating 29-day and 30-day lunar months was observed before 2000 B.C., giving a 354-day year. In contrast, the Mayans of Central America relied on not only the sun and moon, but also the planet Venus, to establish 260-day and 365-day calendars. This culture flourished from around 2000 B.C. until about 1500 A.D. They left celestial-cycle records indicating their belief that the creation of the world occurred in 3113 B.C. Their calendars later became portions of the great Aztec calendar stones. Other civilizations, including the modern West, have adopted a 365-day solar calendar with a leap year occurring every fourth year.

Information and illustrations provided by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the U.S. Department of Commerce

### DID YOU KNOW

The Sumerians of Mesopotamia, who is thought to have invented writing in the 4th century BC, based their numerical system on powers of 60 (instead of 100) subdivided into multiples of 10. It was from this system that Sumero-Babylonians developed the time system that we use today: each hour divided into 60 minutes, which are divided into 60 seconds. By the way, there are 31 556 926 seconds in a year.

MORE ON THE SUMERIANS OF  
MESOPOTAMIA ON PAGE 10

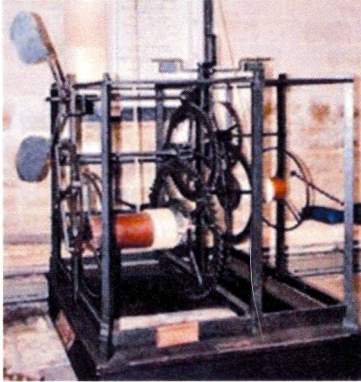


# August 2014 Picnic



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In olden days, time was told mostly by sundials. The first timepiece was a clepsydra, a water clock, introduced at about 1500 BC. Time was measured by the regulated flow of water. Later developments of the clepsydra would drop a metal ball into a bowl upon the hour.



The first mechanical clock is thought to have been designed by an Italian monk around 1275. The clock was driven by the slow pull of a falling weight, basically like a very big hour hand. The **world's oldest working clock** (pictured) was built in 1386 and is still ticking away at Salisbury Cathedral, UK. Like all clocks of that time it has no face but strikes the hour on a bell.

Today, the International Atomic Time, kept by 300 atomic clocks around the world, keeps earth's time to within microseconds of accuracy of solar time. However, since the rotation of earth is slightly irregular and slowing down slowly, a leap second has to be added occasionally, giving us the world standard time known as Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

If all of the above left you scared, you probably suffer from *chronophobia*, the phobia of time. If you don't mind the time but suffer from *chronomentrophobia*, the fear of clocks, head out to Las Vegas: there are no clocks in the gambling casinos.

### Wrist Watch

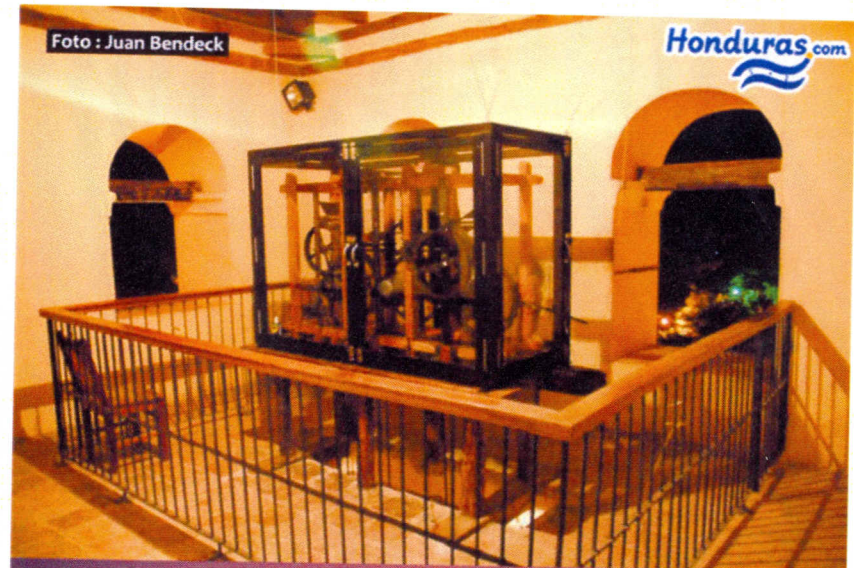
In 1504, the first portable (but not very accurate) timepiece was invented in Nuremberg, Germany by Peter Henlein. The first reported person to actually wear a watch on the wrist was the French mathematician and philosopher, Blaise Pascal (1623-1662). With a piece of string, he attached his pocket watch to his wrist.

### Quartz

According to the Smithsonian "In 1927, Canadian-born Warren Marrison, a telecommunications engineer, was searching for reliable frequency standards at Bell Telephone Laboratories. Building on earlier work in piezoelectricity, he developed a very large, highly accurate clock based on the regular vibrations of a quartz crystal in an electrical circuit" - the first quartz clock.

There is a clock installed in the tower of the Comayagua's Cathedral, Honduras, it was built in 1100 by the Arabians and installed in la Alhambra palace; then was sent to Honduras as a gift from Felipe III (King of Spain) to his colony in Honduras, now it is considered as the oldest working clock in America.

The Oldest Clock in America is located at the Cathedral in Comayagua Honduras. Here is a picture of the oldest clock in America: - See more at: <http://www.honduras.com/the-oldest-clock-in-america-comayagua-honduras-cathedral/#sthash.9wycALml.dpuf>



El Reloj más antiguo de América en la Catedral de Comayagua.

### Minute Hand

In 1577, Jost Burgi invented the minute hand. Burgi's invention was part of a clock made for Tycho Brahe, an astronomer who needed an accurate clock for his stargazing.

### Pendulum

In 1656, the pendulum was invented by Christian Huygens, making clocks more accurate.

### Standard Time

Sir Sanford Fleming invented standard time in 1878.

### Self-winding Watch

Swiss John Harwood invented the self-winding watch in 1923

A Delightful polished Brass Scroll Frame Skeleton Clock. c1860s  
 This is a very nice polished brass scroll frame skeleton clock with passing strike. The four pillar waisted scroll form frame rests on four brass corner posts. The clock is attached to a grooved mahogany frame with integral glass dome. The clock has a skeletonized and silvered scroll dial with black Roman hour numbers and Arabic minutes within the outer dial scrolls. The hands are of polished brass. This clock has a quality five wheel movement with dead beat escapement. It has a single spring barrel with wire line drive over a force compensating fusee. It has a rear mounted pendulum with brass bob and a winding arbor to the front. There is passing strike to a top mounted polished brass bell driven by a lever and pin in the motion works.



### **Editor's note**

Since we do not have a November issue I would like to say Happy Thanksgiving to all

Topics that need to be discussed at the October meeting.

Location of December meeting

Nominations for officers and Directors

A George II rare small gilt and black japanned tavern timepiece with verge escapement signed Robt. Berry, Hitchin. C1750



This is an unusual and rare small gilt and black japanned tavern timepiece. The case is of the shield form with two flambeau finials to the top sides, gilt decoration to the outer molding edge and gilt leaf decoration to all corners with gilt painted lower spandrels. The case is of oak and pine construction with locked doors to the rear right and to the bottom of the box.

The 15" diameter black painted dial has gilt Roman hour chapters and gilt Arabic minute numbers at the five minute markers. Pierced brass hands, the minute hand being counter weighted. The clock is signed Robt. Berry, Hitchin below the dial. The winding arbor is on the 40 minute line close to the center arbor. The five pillar brass plated (6 1/2" x 4 1/2") movement has verge and horizontal crown wheel escapement and short bob pendulum. Single fusee and spring barrel with steel line drive. Robert Berry was a clockmaker in Hitchin, Hertfordshire. He was apprenticed to William Lambert 10th October (1734?) (Britten's) and was a member of the Clockmaker's Company. He was married in March 1741 (Tyler). He was also the son of Robert Berry (Snr). Listed in Baillie as clockmaker c1743. A tavern clock by Robert Berry is illustrated in English House Clocks 1600-1850 by Anthony Bird, plate 38. Provenance - The collection of Justice Warren Shepro, Roscoe, Illinois. Inventory No. 1074. Height 24" and width 19 1/2"

## CHAPTER #107 MEETINGS

### Second Sunday of the Even Numbered Months

Mart: 10:30AM  
 Chapter: 12:00PM  
 Board: after the Chapter Meeting

### Future Meeting Dates

December 14, 2014                      February 08, 2015

We want to keep our members coming to the chapter meetings on a regular basis. If you have problems with transportation to and from meetings, let a director or officer know so we can help you find a carpool.

**Only NAWCC members can participate (buy or sell) in our Mart. Be prepared to show your current membership card.**



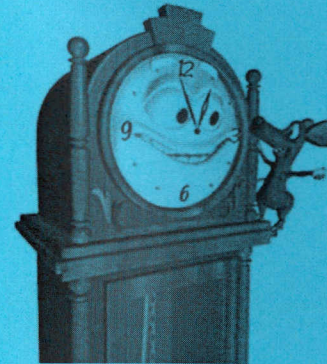
Other NAWCC Chapter Meetings in Northern California		
Chapter	Meeting Address	Meetings
<b>De Anza #94</b>	Odd Fellows Lodge 20589 Homestead Rd Cupertino, CA	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday even months (except April)
<b>Monterey Bay #70</b>	Live Oak Grange Hall 1900 17th Ave Santa Cruz, CA	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday odd months
<b>Sacramento #71</b>	Sacramento Garden Center 3330 McKinley Blvd. Sacramento, CA	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday odd months
<b>San Francisco #5</b>	Boys and Girls Club 401 Marina Blvd. San Leandro, CA	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday odd months

## DIRECTIONS TO CHAPTER MEETINGS

*(except August and December)*  
**743 Diablo Road, Danville**

Take Interstate 680 to the Diablo Road exit in Danville. Go east on Diablo Road for 0.6 mile. The Grange Hall will be on your right. Parking is available in the front and rear. Enter from the front; *i.e.*, street side. Facing the building from the street, there is a ramp on the right side for handicap and cart access.

## CHAPTER LIBRARIES



**BOOK:** The Chapter book library is located at Classical Clocks and Antiques, 1082 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. Contact Nile Godfrey (925-449-2127) for more information.

**VIDEO:** Chapters 107 and 5 share a DVD video library. Contact Price Russ (925-937-9231) for information.

**TOOL:** Contact Walt Hubrig (925-685-0260) or Price Russ (925-937-9231) for information on the tools and parts available for use by Chapter members.

## Disclaimer

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